



NEWS RELEASE

Major John Whitford, Director of Communications, Connecticut National Guard
OFFICE: (860) 524-4857 PAGER: (860) 340-2528 CELL: (860) 883-5336
EMAIL: JOHN.WHITFORD@CT.NGB.ARMY.MIL
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 8, 2006

1109th AVCRAD CHANGES COMMANDERS **Old Saybrook Resident Receives Major Guard Command**

GROTON, Conn. – Lt. Col. Thomas E. Boland of Old Saybrook, is selected as the new commander for the 1109th Aviation Classification Repair Activity Depot (AVCRAD).

A Change of Command ceremony will be held Sunday, September 10, 2006

11:00 a.m. at the Groton facility.

Boland was chosen for his new assignment by Maj. Gen. Thaddeus J. Martin, Connecticut's Adjutant General and top National Guard Officer, based on his years of dedicated service and outstanding leadership ability.

The 1109th AVCRAD is one of four facilities of its type in the United States Army and Army National Guard. Its day to day mission is to provide limited depot level maintenance and back up aviation intermediate maintenance (AVIM) to Army National Guard aviation facilities in 14 northeastern states from Maine to Virginia to include Ohio and the District of Columbia. Its wartime mission involves providing specialized depot aviation maintenance to deploying force through activation and deployment of our soldiers.

With more than 25 years of military service, Boland has held several major leadership positions throughout his career.

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CONNECTICUT ARMY NATIONAL GUARD



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Boland, who enlisted in the Connecticut Army National Guard in 1981, received his commission as a Second Lieutenant within the Adjutant General Corps, in 1983.

After graduating from the Aviation Officer Basic Course and Initial Entry Rotary Wing training at FT. Rucker, Alabama in 1986, he was assigned to Company B, 26th Aviation Battalion, 26th (Yankee) Infantry Division as a UH-1 helicopter pilot and later served as the Executive Officer.

In 1989, he was transferred to the 1109th AVCRAD where he served as the Training Officer, the Administration Officer and the Flight Operations Officer over the next 6 years. During that time, he was activated with the 1109th AVCRAD in support of Operation Desert Storm. Later, he was transferred to serve as Executive Officer of the 2-126th Aviation Regiment, followed by serving in the same capacity in the 1-169th Aviation Regiment. Most recently, LTC Boland was serving as the State Aviation Officer, until his transfer to the 1109th AVCRAD last month.

He has received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Journalism from the University of Connecticut and is currently enrolled in the United States Army War College.

A native of Brooklyn, Boland resides in Old Saybrook with his wife Ann and has three children.

Boland will receive the command from the outgoing commander Colonel William P. Shea

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Shea has held command of the 1109th AVCRAD for the past two years. Previous to that, he deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom with the 1109th AVCRAD as the Executive Officer.

Shea is a graduate of the United States Army War College and was awarded a Masters Degree in Strategic Studies.

Shea will move on to serve as The Chief of Staff / Command Administrative Officer of the Connecticut Army National Guard Joint Force Headquarters in Hartford.

Shea resides in Middletown, with his wife Carolyn and his three children.

This event is open to the media.

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Directions: I-95 North take the Clarence B. Sharp Highway exit. At the second traffic light turn left follow to next traffic light. At that light take a right. Go approximately ¼ mile bear to the right follow Airport signs to AVCRAD. Facility will be on your right next to the Groton-New London Airport.